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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /055 W
----------170625Z 030246 /21
R 161125Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7746
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SN
SUBJECT: PAP (WHO ELSE) WINS BY-ELECTION FOR RADIN MAS

REF: SINGAPORE 1975

1. PAP NOVICE CANDIDATE, BERNARD CHEN TIEN LAP, GARNERED 69.2 PERCENT OF 17,415 VOTES CAST IN MAY 14 RADIN MAS BY-ELECTION, SWAMPING J.B. JEYARETNAM, WORKERS PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, WHO IS NOW, ACCORDING TO PRESS, A THREE-TIME LOSER, THIS OUTCOME APPEARS TO REPRESENT A SLIGHT SETBACK FOR PAP, SINCE IT MANGED TO OBTAIN 74.1 PERCENT OF RADIN MAS VOTE IN DECEMBER 1976. HOWEVER, DECLINE IS NOT CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT BY EMBASSY, INASMUCH AS IT PROBABLY REFLECTS RELATIVE STRENGTH OF TWO NEW CANDIDATES. SINCE WP'S JEYARETNAM BETTER KNOWN OF THE TWO MEN, ELECTORAL RESULTS WOULD SEEM TO REPRESENT BEDROCK LEVEL OF SUPPORT FOR PAP IN THIS WORKING-CLASS, HOUSING ESTATE CONSTITUENCY.

2. CHEN CONCENTRATED ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES, PARTICULARLY PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN RESETTLEMENT OF VILLAGE DWELLERS DISPLACED BY HOUSING BOARD CONSTRUCTION.
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HEYARETNAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, REPEATED HIS ASSERTIONS THAT SINGAPOREANS ARE BEING DENIED FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS. NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN. ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME WAS NEVER REALLY IN DOUBT, PAP TOOK NO CHANCES, GIVING CHEN EXTENSIVE SUPPORT, INCLUDING WARM ENDORSEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER LEE. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHILE SOME MIDDLE-CLASS SINGAPOREANS MAY BE CONCERNED OVER

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GOVERNMENT'S RECENT CRACKDOWN AGAINST PRO-COMMUNIST DISSI-
DENTS, INCLUDING ARREST OF TWO FORMER FEER CORRESPONDENTS,
ELECTORAL OUTCOME IN THIS WORKING CLASS DISTRICT INDICATES
THAT THIS CONCERN IS NOT SHARED BY POPULATION AS A WHOLE.

3. IN AFTERMATH OF ELECTION, POLITICAL FUTURE OF
JEYARETHNAM AND WORKERS PARTY IS CLOUDED. JEYARETNAM HAS
REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT BUT WP CHAIRMAN WONG
HONG TOY HAS INTIMATED THAT BY-ELECTIONS MAY HAVE BEEN
DEMORALIZED WP'S LAST HURRAH. DISAPPEARANCE OF WP WOULD
BE A LOSS, SINCE IT REPRESENTS MOST VIABLE AND RESPONSIBLE
ELEMENT OF SINGAPORE'S POLITICAL OPPOSITION.
GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, BYELECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770174-0606
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 1975
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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SAS ID: 2503661
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TAGS: PINT, SN, PAP, WP, (CHEN TIEN LAP, BERNARD), (JEYARETNAM, J B)
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Type: TE
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